

# AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



## Town Hall Meeting on May 15, 2011

On May 15, 2012 the Consular Section and Regional Security Office held a joint Town Hall Meeting to discuss any concerns or questions American Citizens might have about the upcoming elections in Mongolia.

Kathleen Morenski, the Deputy Chief of Mission, opened the Town Hall Meeting and welcomed the guests. She emphasized that the protection and welfare of American Citizens in the country

are the utmost priorities of the U.S. Embassy. Phil Cargile, the Consular Section Chief, introduced Dianna Palequin, the new Vice Consul. He also mentioned that the Consular Section will not be providing services to the public on June 28<sup>th</sup> (Election Day) and 29<sup>th</sup>.



Become a fan of **U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar, Consular Section** on Facebook.

### Inside this issue:

Town Hall Meeting on May 15	1
Did you remember to file your taxes?	2
Emergency & Disaster Preparedness/Go Kits	3
A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia	4
Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)	4
Travel Warnings and Alerts	4
Upcoming Holidays	4
Embassy Contact Information	4

Tim Feeney, the Regional Security Officer, gave an overall briefing of the security situation in Mongolia. During the upcoming elections, he does not foresee any major disruptions, however, he still advised American Citizens to ensure they have enough food and water in case stores are closed during the elections and thereafter. Please review the emergency and disaster preparedness summary on page 3. He also drew the participants' attention to the increased number of xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals by the neo-Nazi group in Ulaanbaatar over the past several months. Overall, they are a threat to all foreigners with numerous foreign nationals being the victims of unprovoked attacks. Generally, they focus their actions on Chinese nationals and interracial couples. However, these groups have confused other Asian nationals and Asian Americans for being Chinese during a confrontation. RSO Feeney advised American Citizens to exercise extreme caution when taking taxis or any other public transportation and to avoid going out alone at night. Many personal experiences were shared regarding crime in Mongolia.

Andrew Covington, the Political Section Chief, gave a briefing on the previous elections in 2008 and the current political situation. He stated that June 28<sup>th</sup>, Election Day, will be a national holiday. He also reminded the audience that demonstrations can start peaceful, but due to people's strong emotions, they can become aggressive. **All the presenters repeatedly recommended that American Citizens should not participate in the Mongolian elections or protests if they do occur.** (continued on page 2)

## Town Hall Meeting on May 15, 2011 (continued)

The Town Hall participants were given a chance to directly ask questions about the upcoming elections in Mongolia. After the official program ended, many participants stayed for refreshments and a chance to meet each other and to discuss individual concerns about the Mongolian and US elections with Embassy staff.



### Did You Remember to File Your Taxes?

If not, don't worry. If you reside overseas or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must have been paid by the original return due date (April 15) to avoid interest charges.

Publication 4732 contains specific tax information for Americans living abroad and can be downloaded at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

**STATE TAX RETURNS:** For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has requested that the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) bring to the attention of U.S. citizens abroad a new information reporting form that taxpayers will start using this tax filing season to report specified foreign financial assets for tax year 2011.

The Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets) should be filed by taxpayers with specific types and amounts of foreign financial assets or foreign accounts. It is important for taxpayers to determine whether they are subject to this new requirement because the law imposes significant penalties for failing to comply.

Form 8938, the instructions, regulations implementing this new foreign asset report, and other information to help taxpayers determine if they are required to file Form 8938 is available on the IRS website.



## Emergency & Disaster Preparedness/Go Kits

As Mongolian parliament elections approach, a number of American Citizens have asked questions about emergency preparedness for their families. In a disaster or emergency situation, key roads, bridges, power stations, water treatment plants, and international airports may sustain damage, or be blocked by protestors or police. Communication systems may be down for an extended period of time. This means that

relief supplies, medical attention, aid workers, and security forces may be hampered in reaching citizens for a significant period of time. During a disaster or significant civil unrest, American Citizens can expect to Shelter-In-Place for at least 72 hours before host country or U.S. Government assistance arrives. This means that citizens need to think about having enough fresh water, food, medical supplies and protecting themselves and physical property.

RSO recommends keeping a 10 day to 14 day supply of non-perishable food on hand with a proper supply of water. A vehicle owner should always maintain their fuel level above ½ a tank. The traditional summer fuel shortage season is upon us and vehicle owners should be diligent in keeping their fuel tanks topped off.

In the event of an emergency, “Go Kits” are meant to be grabbed quickly in case of little-to-no-notice events, such as emergency evacuations, prolonged utility outages, and events such as earthquakes and severe weather that may require individuals or families to Shelter-In-Place. The following lists are provided as guidance for building your own “Go-Kit.” **We recommend that you adjust your kit(s) as necessary to** meet your family needs and/or the local environment. Additionally, a well prepared U.S. Mission community can rely on each other if portions of individual family “Go Kits” are

destroyed during a disaster. If conditions permit, a family may want to store a second “Go Kit” outside of their residence to hedge against the risk of their primary residential “Go Kit” being destroyed in a disaster.

- 1 gallon of water/day/person
- Handheld fresh water pump
- Drinking water purification tablets
- Medicine/medications
- Emergency food
- Emergency blanket
- Small first aid kit
- Flashlight/candles
- Extra batteries
- Extra set of house/car keys
- Important papers/documents (in waterproof container)
- Battery-powered radio
- Paper cups, plastic utensils, matches, non-electronic can opener
- Zip lock bags
- Small non perishable food items
- Foods for people with special diets
- Vitamins, prescription drugs, sun screen
- Toilet paper, antibacterial hand wipes, soap, chlorine bleach, disinfectant, and paper towels
- Personal hygiene items
- Extra pair of eyeglasses
- Large plastic trash bags & large covered trash can
- Change of clothing, rain wear, sturdy/comfortable shoes, and hat
- Cell phone and charger
- Books and games
- Special items for elderly and infants
- Cash
- Small sewing kit

(continued on page 4)

### Emergency & Disaster Preparedness/Go Kits (continued)

Again, the list on the previous page is to help you get started; adjust your "Go Kit" to your personal needs and the environment. For more information on emergency preparedness, please visit the below web sites.

U.S. Department of State  
<http://eprep.a.state.gov/>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
<http://www.ready.gov/>

\* Courtesy Regional Security Officer

### A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential.

Send an email to the Embassy at [UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov](mailto:UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov) giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

### Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Mauritania](#) 05/24/2012  
[Saudi Arabia](#) 05/18/2012  
[Lebanon](#) 05/08/2012  
[Algeria](#) 05/04/2012  
[Iran](#) 04/27/2012  
[Bahrain](#) 04/25/2012  
[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 04/23/2012  
[Burundi](#) 04/18/2012  
[Eritrea](#) 04/18/2012

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

### Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services  
Embassy of the United States  
11<sup>th</sup> Micro District  
Big Ring Road  
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia  
Tel: 976-11329-095  
Fax: 976-11323-788  
After-hours  
or emergency number: 9911-4168  
E-mail: [UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov](mailto:UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov)  
- or -  
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar  
4410 Ulaanbaatar Place  
Washington, DC, 20521-4410

### Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

**Stay Informed.** Sign up for our free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (formerly known as "Travel Registration" or "Registration with Embassies") to receive the latest travel updates and information! You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans!

**Stay Connected.** By connecting with us on the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#), we will be able to assist you better in the case of an emergency, such as if you lose your passport or it is stolen while you are abroad. We also assist U.S. citizens in other emergencies, such as in natural disasters.

**Stay Safe.** We believe that a well-informed traveler is a safer traveler. Our consular officers around the world compile country-specific information, travel alerts, travel warnings, fact sheets and warden messages to provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel. Stay informed by connecting with us via our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) so you can have safe and enjoyable travels!

### Upcoming Holidays

July 4—Independence Day  
July 11—13—Naadam